

United States Senate

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January 11, 1992

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The Honorable William Reilly
Administrator
The Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Administrator Reilly:

As you know, recent flooding along the Salt River has caused a breach at the Tri-City Landfill located on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation. The flooding has washed a large amount of trash from the landfill into the river.

Last year, when moderate flows along the river created a similar problem EPA's Region IX staff agreed to work with the Tribe, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Army Corp of Engineers to take remedial action and to separate the landfill from the Salt River in order to secure it against flood flows.

We understand that the Army Corps of Engineers was the lead agency regarding the repair of the landfill. The scope of the problem, however, now stretches far beyond the landfill. We ask again that you coordinate with these agencies to correct this problem and to prevent any further risk to public health. Please work with the appropriate agencies to ensure the expeditious and thorough cleanup of the waste carried into the Salt River and surrounding areas.

I am sure you will agree that we must seek a long term solution to this problem. Therefore, we request the EPA to investigate the situation thoroughly and to develop an enforceable solution that will prevent future polluting of the river by this landfill.

Last year, the region IX office committed to help resolve this problem. We would appreciate your office providing us with a detailed response as to the actions that the Region IX office have taken over the past year to correct this problem.

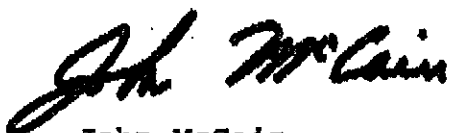
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Game back to CRoberts
for re-route to WMD.

1/13/93

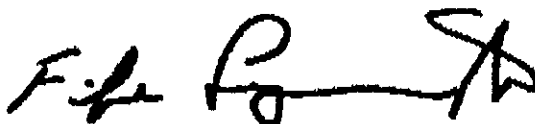
In addition to the problem at the Tri-City landfill, there are other landfills located along the river bank and possibly two federal superfund sites which may also have been affected by the flooding. We ask that you also please review the impact of flooding on these areas.

Please advise us as to what steps you are taking to secure the landfill and protect the river as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Fife Symington
Governor of Arizona